(c) Orissa has the highest infant mortality rate in the country (87).

(d) The measures being implemented in the country to bring down the infant mortality rate in the country are:

i. National ARI Control Programme

ii. National Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme

iii. Universal Immunization Programme

iv. Provision of essential newborn care

v. Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life.

National Health Insurance Scheme

941. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce National Health Insurance Scheme across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the infrastructure is available to implement the scheme across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) methodology evolved to meet the annual expenditure over the scheme; and

(f) by when the scheme is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Granting accreditation to hospitals

942. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a prelude to boost medical tourism in the country,

Government propose to grant accreditation for hospitals in order to ensure uniform and consistent service system in hospitals across the country;

(b) whether this move is prompted by the demands of Indian Health care Federation including grant of infrastructure status health to Health Care industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Task Force has been set up with a view to promoting India as a Healthcare Destination. The Task Force has been entrusted with issues relating to making available specific types of health facilities including super-speciality medical care, out-sourcing of medical services, traditional medicine expertise available etc. Identification of the list of hospitals/institutions having standard facilities has also been entrusted to the Task Force.

Development of indigenous medicines

†943. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have explored possibilities to develop indigenous system of medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which this system can be developed as against the present situation;

(c) whether Government have prepared any scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent till September, 2004 out of the sum allocated to the Department of Indigenous System of Medicines during current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.